



# The Outlook

Oct. 24, 2006

U.S. Army Garrisons Vicenza & Livorno

www.USAG.Vicenza.Army.Mil

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## *Lion Shake exercise tests Ederle, Vicenza emergency responders*

**Story and photo**  
**By Spc. Justin Nieto**  
*SETAF Public Affairs*

In the early morning hours of Oct. 17 two burning cars outside the Ederle Inn sent local agencies in motion for a quick response to contain the blaze and react to a suspected chemical attack on the installation.

All this was part of the annual Lion Shake exercise, of course, but it was still met with the same emergency response from agencies as if it were a real incident.

"We received the call at about 9 a.m. and the firefighters were on the incident scene at about six minutes later," said Giancarlo Fattori, USAG Vicenza Fire Department chief. "The first call came in as a car accident in front of the Ederle Inn. Then it turned out to be a two-car fire, which we responded to."

"The Italian Fire Department was alerted and got on the installation at about 9:20 a.m.," said Fattori. The fire was reported out by 9:30 a.m., according to Fattori.

But the fire was not the only event first responders had to contend with. Shortly after, a suspected chemical spill in the Ederle Inn sent a cloud of foul-smelling smoke into the area.

"The Italian Fire Department investigated and determined the need to setting up a decontamination line, and we assisted," said Fattori.

Once they arrived on post, the Italian Emergency Services actually took command of the event, something that is a bit unusual to many Americans, who often don't realize that Caserma Ederle is an Italian installation.

"The annual Lion Shake exercise helps the Caserma Ederle community build a cohesive emergency response team with our Italian counterparts and solidifies the long-standing partnership we have built with the Vicenza community," said Col. Virgil S.L. Williams, USAG Vicenza commander.

"Every year we plan a different scenario that utilizes our emergency response units on and off post, such as emergency services, health professionals and emergency operations center," continued Williams.

"One of our major goals is to develop compatible standard operating procedures between our countries," said Williams.

First responders from both countries had their hands full with mock victims, as people from the Ederle Inn and the library fled to the streets complaining of nausea and other symptoms.

The U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza is responsible for protecting all Soldiers, civilians and family members who work and live in the Vicenza military community, according to Adeal Frater, Directorate of Emergency Services deputy director.

"We take our force protection responsibility seriously and are always looking for ways to improve upon the standards already set in place," he said. "This would be impossible without the incredible support and capability of our Italian friends," he continued. "As tenants on an Italian installation, working alongside our Italian counterparts helps us devise new strategies for challenges we might face in a large scale emergency situation."

"We appreciate the tremendous assistance and efforts on behalf of the City of Vicenza, the Vicenza Prefect and the Italian volunteer organizations," said Williams.



**Above, a firefighter tapes the opening between another emergency responder's glove and suit prior to putting on biohazard suits. This ensures a tight seal and helps keep out contaminants. (Photo by Barbara Romano, 7th ATC Photo Lab)**



**Top: A Military Police Soldier helps a mock victim outside the Ederle Inn during the exercise Lion Shake. Above: An Italian emergency responder helps a mock victim inside the decontamination chamber. (Photo by Barbara Romano, 7th ACT Photo Lab) Left: Caserma Ederle firefighters respond to a car fire outside the Ederle Inn. Lion Shake '07 kicked off Oct. 17 with a report of a car accident outside the Ederle Inn. Lion Shake is the annual antiterrorism/force protection exercise that tests the U.S. and Italian emergency response systems. (Photo by Barabara Romano, 7th ACT Photo Lab)**

### **Daylight Savings Time ends Saturday**

Remember to turn your clocks **BACK** one hour before you go to sleep Saturday night.

# Camp Darby celebrates Hispanic Heritage month with activities



Above: A little girl gets a bit of help from her mother to hit a pinata during Fiesta Night Oct. 14 at the Darby Community Center. Community members gathered for free food tasting and salsa lessons. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Joyce Costello, AFN Livorno)  
On Oct. 12, a birthday cake donated by Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers was presented to the community during a Hispanic Heritage Luncheon held at the Camp Darby dining facility. Tony Vicente, USAG Livorno deputy commander, who helped cut the cake, spoke to the crowd present saying, "Our American society consists of Hispanics, African Americans, Asians and more, it's important to recognize that we are a melting pot, we are America."



## Happy Birthday!

**The community is invited to the post exchange food court at noon Wednesday to celebrate SETAF's 51st Birthday with a birthday cake.**

## Community Action Council

This forum is to discuss issues affecting the community.

If you have an issue you wish to submit, visit the USAG Vicenza Web site at [www.usag.vicenza.army.mil](http://www.usag.vicenza.army.mil) and click on the Community Action Council link.

This link provides you the opportunity to review issues that have been previously submitted and responded to by post agencies.

There is also a form available for you to submit any new issue you would like addressed. If you have questions, call 634-5222 or 0444-71-5222 from off post.

The command encourages you to identify yourself when submitting a CAC issue in order to be able to answer your concern directly.

The command also reminds the community that CAC issues submitted containing vulgar, derogatory or inflammatory language will not be addressed.

Childcare is offered during the CAC at \$4 per hour, per child, for children ages 6 weeks old through kindergarten from 8:45-11:15 a.m. Preregistration is required.

Children will be cared for in the Child Development Center, building 395. Children must be registered with Child and Youth Services Central Registration.

Call 634-7219 or stop by their location in the Davis Family Readiness Center.

The next CAC is Oct. 25 beginning at 10 a.m. in the Ederle Theatre.

**Issue:** When we arrived at Caserma Ederle a year ago, ACS provided many services that made the transition to living in Italy easier. Of these ACS services, the

Italian I course was extremely helpful in this transition.

While "Headstart" and "Benvenuti" are excellent first steps in the transition to life in Italy, the ACS Italian I continues the process of equipping family members for everyday life in Italy. The current instructor provides basic language skills and cultural education in a friendly, non-intimidating environment.

**Recommendation:** Can ACS reconsider this action and continue funding this course. The Italian I course is an outstanding enhancement to the quality of life for our family members.

**Response from the Directorate of MWR:** ACS received relocation dollars from the Office of Secretary of Defense and is therefore again able to fund Italian as a Second Language through Aug. 31, 2007.

**Issue:** Why is vehicle registration closed on Italian Holidays?

Why is it located in Torri?

They close at 11:30 a.m. for lunch and re-open at 1:30 p.m.

This really inconveniences people who have to do their errands during lunchtime, because they cannot get away from the office during regular hours of operation.

**Recommendation:** There are five people who work there, can they take staggered lunches?

**Response from the Directorate of Emergency Services:** The Vehicle Registration office is supported by three Italian national employees (not five). Therefore, on Italian holidays they are authorized to be off-duty which requires the office to be close. The office is open on all U.S. holidays, except when authorized by the installation commander.

## Halloween activities on Villaggio

Directorate of MWR  
Press Release

MWR worked very closely with the Command on this year's celebration to ensure that we conduct a safe and fun event for our American ID cardholders, and one that would continue our close relationship with our Italian neighbors.

The fun for ID cardholders starts at 3:30 p.m. in the Youth Services Villaggio gym, where children ages 6 and under can find the Pumpkin Patch, a place with holiday games and activities, scary stories, and a (temporary) tattoo parlor.

The YS Villaggio parking lot will host activities that older children can enjoy to include Pumpkin Bowling, Musical Tombstones and Fortune Telling until 5 p.m. From 5-6 p.m., everyone can enter the "Best Screamer and Costume" contests.

The Haunted Path, located next to the YS Villaggio Building grass field, will be open evenings Oct 27, 28 and 29 from 7 to 10 p.m. as well as on Halloween from 5:30-7 p.m. for ID cardholders only.

This year, Trick-or-Treat for ID cardholders only is from 6 to 7 p.m.

After ID cardholder trick-or-treating, the Villaggio gates open at 7 p.m. for Italian children observing the rules, and continue until 8:30 p.m. (ID cardholders may continue to trick-or-treat until 8:30 p.m. as well).

We will enforce several new rules this year, please keep in mind that these rules will apply only to **non-U.S. ID cardholders:**

1. No bikes, heeled shoes, skateboards or rollerblades are allowed
2. No pets are allowed
3. Military police and guard forces will patrol designated zones
4. There will be two controlled entry points: one for Italians, and one for U.S. ID Cardholders
5. A maximum of 1,500 Italians will be allowed to enter/

Other safety considerations put in place this year include:

\* A shuttle service from Caserma Ederle, will run from 6 to 8:45 p.m.

The shuttle will make trips every 15 minutes from Caserma Ederle to Villaggio for ID cardholders.

The drop off and pick up points will be:

- ♦ Caserma Ederle: The bus stop across the street from the Shoppette parking lot
- ♦ Villaggio: The gate behind the Self Help store.

This gate will be used only for shuttle pick up and drop off.

The walk-in gate will be open for foot traffic (U.S. ID cardholders only) until 9 p.m.

♦ Military police will be patrolling all areas of Villaggio, and will have support from the Italian Carabinieri.

♦ The only vehicles allowed on Villaggio between the hours of 6 - 8:30 p.m. are emergency vehicles. All other traffic will not be allowed to enter for the safety of all the trick-or-treaters.

In addition, we have added a new candy distribution process to supplement residents who choose to participate in trick-or-treating from their homes. This year, Trick-or-Treat booths, manned by volunteers, will be placed strategically around Villaggio, handing out candy to all children.

Non-Villaggio residents may also donate candy to Villaggio residents by dropping off bagged candy at the commissary and the post exchange.

As in years past, MWR will pass out signs in English and Italian that can be placed in Villaggio residents' windows stating your home is not participating in the celebration. These flyers will be hand-delivered to each house in Villaggio, handed out at the Villaggio gate, and distributed to all CMR boxes. The flyers will re-state all Halloween rules and activities.

A decision was made in 2003 to move the vehicle registration office from in bldg #61 on Caserma Ederle to the Torri warehouse complex.

This was in support of the long-term space utilization plan and co-located vehicle registration with the vehicle processing center. There is simply no space on the Caserma to facilitate the vehicle registration office.

Currently the vehicle registration office is closed from noon-1:30 p.m. for lunch. This is because the three employees who work in the office are Italian National employees and, in accordance with the local national contract, all local national employees must be afforded time to eat at the Mensa on Caserma Ederle.

Those personnel who work in the Lerino and Torri complexes are afforded an additional 30 minutes (roundtrip travel time) for their lunch period.

As the Mensa is open from 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. and after taking into consideration the requirements while the office is open, having the office remain open with staggered lunch periods is not feasible.

That said, we are looking at a number of options to increase our ability to provide more effective customer service.

First, we now stay open until 4:30 p.m.

Second, we are looking into the feasibility of hiring another NAF employee which will allow us to modify our lunch hours.

Finally, we are looking at how we can open either half-days or full days on Saturdays while closing one work day per week.

We will be able to update this response before the next CAC meeting.

**Issue:** Last year the Villaggio housing area was completely overwhelmed with trick-or-treaters! Dangerously so.

Italians were found wandering behind housing units. Small children and many flower beds were trampled.

I went through 40 bags of candy in 20 minutes! The gate MPs told me they estimated 4,000 people came into Villaggio.

As much as we would love to be good ambassadors, Villaggio can not support inviting hundreds of Italians into our housing area.

That being said, I would hate to see Trick-or-Treating taken away from our own children. It is very much an American cultural tradition – one that our children should not miss out on because they are overseas.

**Recommendations:** MWR could host an event on post if they want to invite local Italian's to participate in Halloween activities. Villaggio should remain open to ID card holders only for traditional Trick-or-Treating.

**Response from DMWR:** The changes we put in place to this year's event are on the top of this page, as well as in this month's issue of *HomeFront News*, which is inserted into *The Outlook*. We all understand what happened last year and we believe that we have worked hard on finding a safe and enjoyable solution for everyone.

We sincerely hope that the changes implemented this year will result in an enjoyable American Tradition for all.

**The next Community Action Council meeting is Oct. 25, at 10 a.m. in the Ederle Theatre.**

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month

Know the facts, do the checks

**The Outlook**  
*Press Release*

Did you know that breast cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer in women, accounting for one out of every three cancer diagnoses?

Did you know that breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer deaths among women of all ages, and the leading cause of cancer deaths in women ages 20 to 59.

Pretty scary, isn't it? But with early detection, it may be possible to beat this disease.

**Causes and Risk Factors**

- ◆ Breast cancer tumors result from abnormal, uncontrollable cell growth or division.
- ◆ While the exact causes of breast cancer are unknown, the disease is thought to involve a combination of genetic, hormonal, dietary, and environmental factors.
- ◆ Gender is the most notable factor increasing susceptibility to breast cancer. At highest risk are those women:
  - Of increasing age: Only about 6 percent of breast cancer diagnoses occur in women younger than 40; about 17 percent are among women in their 40s, and approximately 78 percent of women older than 50 are susceptible.

The risk is especially high for women ages 65 and older. With personal history of breast cancer or with previous benign (non-cancerous) breast conditions or atypical changes on a breast biopsy: A woman with cancer in one breast has a 3- to 4-fold increased risk of developing a new cancer in the other breast or in another part of the same breast.

- With family history of breast cancer:

Relative risk increases if one or more close blood relatives (mother, daughter, or sister) have a history of breast or ovarian cancer.

**Detection**

- ◆ The American Cancer Society and other health officials recommend the following approach for the early detection of breast cancer:
  - Clinical breast examinations (CBE) by a health practitioner every 3 years for those between the ages of 20 and 39 and annually after age 40.
  - Annual mammograms for women 40 and over.
  - Breast self exam (BSE), on a regular or occasional basis, is optional.
- ◆ Mammograms can often detect breast tumors before the appearance of physical symptoms and before the tumor can be felt as a lump. Unfortunately, mammograms can also produce false positive and false negative results.
- ◆ A painless lump or mass is the most common sign of breast cancer. Less common symptoms may include breast thickening, swelling, distortion, nipple discharge, inversion, erosion, pain, or tenderness.

**Prevention**

- ◆ There are no proven prevention strategies against breast cancer. A lifestyle that includes regular exercise, a nutritious diet, limited alcohol consumption, and no exposure to tobacco smoke may benefit overall health.

*Editor's note: This was adapted from The American Cancer Society, 2005 Cancer Facts & Figures; and National Breast Cancer Coalition Fund, Facts About Breast Cancer in the United States: Year 2005.*

## Worldwide caution from State Department

**Department of State**  
*Press Release*

This Public Announcement supersedes the Worldwide Caution dated June 6, 2006 and expires April 9, 2007.

The Department of State remains concerned about the continued threat of terrorist attacks, demonstrations and other violent actions against U.S. citizens and interests overseas. Current information suggests that al-Qa'ida and affiliated organizations continue to plan terrorist attacks against U.S. interests in multiple regions, including Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East. These attacks may employ a wide variety of tactics to include assassinations, kidnappings, hijackings and bombings.

Ongoing events in Iraq and elsewhere in the Middle East have resulted in demonstrations and associated violence in several countries. Americans are reminded that demonstrations and rioting can occur with little or no warning.

Extremists may elect to use conventional

or non-conventional weapons, and target both official and private interests.

Financial or economic targets of value may also be considered as possible venues; the failed attack on the Abqaiq oil processing facility in Saudi Arabia in late February 2006 is one such example.

In the wake of the numerous plots and attacks in foreign countries such as England, India, Madrid, etc., Americans are reminded of the potential for terrorists to attack public transportation systems. In addition, extremists may also select aviation and maritime services as possible targets.

U.S. citizens are strongly encouraged to maintain a high level of vigilance, be aware of local events, and take the appropriate steps to bolster their personal security. For additional information, please refer to "A Safe Trip Abroad" found at <http://travel.state.gov>.

As the Department continues to develop information on any potential security threats to U.S. citizens overseas, it shares credible threat information through its Consular Information Program documents, available on the Internet at <http://travel.state.gov>.

# The Outlook

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### Safety countermeasures

## Get ready for winter driving

**Command Safety Office**  
*Press Release*

For those of you new to driving in Europe, the good news is that basic driving skills are the same; the bad news is that driving in Italy can present some challenges not seen in the states, especially when it comes to sharing the road with bicyclists and farm vehicles.

In addition, weather changes can quickly alter road conditions and visibility. You can drive round a corner and suddenly find your vehicle skidding across invisible ice, which has accumulated in a shaded area.

Here in the Veneto Region, you can be cruising along and wonder where the scenery went – it is shrouded by thick fog.

Good drivers prepare themselves for all driving conditions that they might encounter. They keep their vehicles maintained to handle all types of weather.

They learn to anticipate driving conditions by being aware of weather changes. Here are some reminders for winning against the weather:

- ◆ When planning a trip out of the local area, check the Internet, or call the military police for highway and weather reports. You might be advised to carry chains to cross a mountain pass, or learn that a route is closed altogether.
- The Italian autostrada Web site in English is: [www.autostrade.it/en/index.html](http://www.autostrade.it/en/index.html)
- ◆ Equip your vehicle for the conditions you might drive through. Don't wait until the first snowfall to install your winter or all-season tires. It's safe to assume it is going to snow this winter, just like every winter before.
- ◆ Also switch to winter weight oil and winter coolant before cold weather sets in for good.
- ◆ Carry survival supplies in case you get stuck. Warm clothing, boots, gloves, quick energy food, matches and a candle are the minimum to carry in your vehicle in all seasons.
- ◆ Have the position of your headlights, taillights and fog lights checked. If they are too low, you won't see much; if they are too high, they can cause potentially dangerous glare for other drivers.
- ◆ Learn how your vehicle handles in rough weather conditions. Front wheel drive, rear wheel drive and all wheel drive vehicles

each have a different "feel" to them. Learn how to correct a skid before it happens for real.

- ◆ Get use to your anti-lock brakes (ABS) before you need them in an emergency. Read the owner's manual for your vehicle, which will explain that you can hit them hard without pumping them if you need to stop suddenly.
- ◆ Wet weather can cause landslides, and avalanches are common hazards in many regions in the winter. Obey all warnings about avoiding these areas.
- ◆ Sometimes road and weather conditions are too dangerous for driving at all. If the police tell you to stay off the road, do everyone a favor and obey.
- ◆ Flood warnings are another good reason to stay home. Every year there are tragic stories about drivers who tried to drive across flooded areas and drowned.
- ◆ Keep your cellular phone charged, or at least have coins/phone card for a pay phone.
- ◆ Pay attention constantly to road and weataher conditions, which can vary from area to the next.

### Winter Driving in Fog

Because much of the Veneto Region is in a valley, driving in and around Vicenza and throughout the region can be very dangerous during the fall, winter, and spring months because of the blankets of fog that suddenly appear.

Limited or reduced visibility is one of the most dangerous hazards of winter driving. Pockets of dense fog can reduce visibility down to 50 feet or less.

You can avoid accidents by driving according to the road and weather conditions and by driving defensively.

#### Driving Tips:

- ◆ If possible, don't drive, or move off the road until the fog lifts.
- ◆ Reduce your speed and don't out-drive your headlights. Slow down.
- ◆ *Keep your headlights on low beam or dim*, and use fog lights if available.
- ◆ Be alert for pedestrians, bicycles, scooters and slow-moving vehicles.

## Notebook computer batteries recalled

**AAFES**  
*Press Release*

In the past six months, four Army & Air Force Exchange Service electronic suppliers have issued recalls on notebook computer batteries. Furthermore, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is aware of at least 47 incidents involving smoke or fire associated with notebook computers, from January 2001 through August 2006.

With more than 200,000 notebook computers sold to military shoppers since 2004, AAFES, in conjunction with CPSC, offers the following tips to encourage the safe use of notebook computers and batteries:

- ◆ Do not use incompatible computer batteries and chargers. If unsure about whether a replacement battery or charger is compatible, contact the product manufacturer.
- ◆ Computer batteries can get hot during normal use. Do not use your computer on your lap.
- ◆ Do not use your computer on soft surfaces, such as a sofa, bed or carpet, because it can restrict airflow and cause overheating.
- ◆ Do not permit a loose battery to come in contact with metal objects, such as coins, keys or jewelry.
- ◆ Do not crush, puncture or put a high degree of pressure on the battery as this can

cause an internal short-circuit, resulting in overheating.

- ◆ Avoid dropping or bumping the computer. Dropping it, especially on a hard surface, can potentially cause damage to the computer and battery. If you suspect damage contact the manufacturer.
- ◆ Do not place the computer in areas that may get very hot.
- ◆ Do not get your computer or battery wet. Even though they will dry and appear to operate normally, the circuitry could slowly corrode and pose a safety hazard.
- ◆ Follow battery usage, storage and charging guidelines found in the user's guide.
- ◆ Regularly check the AAFES Web site at [www.aafes.com/pa/news/QA\\_Recalls.htm](http://www.aafes.com/pa/news/QA_Recalls.htm) to view the latest product recalls and alerts relevant to PX/BX.

The AAFES Quality Assurance team defines quality in terms of "fitness for use;" i.e., if an item is not fit for intended use, then it is not a quality item.

Anything that adversely affects appearance, serviceability or salability of an item is considered a defect.

Once merchandise in AAFES' stock assortment is identified as unsafe, the Quality Assurance team immediately issues a recall or alert in conjunction with federal agencies.

All product recalls and alerts relevant to AAFES are posted and archived online at [www.aafes.com/pa/news/QA\\_Recalls.htm](http://www.aafes.com/pa/news/QA_Recalls.htm).



Story and photos by Laura Kreider  
Outlook Staff

Looking for something to do on your time off after completing homework? Interested in learning while having fun? Looking to make new friends while learning?

The Villaggio Middle School Youth Services offers daily activities for children in grades six through eight.

"All activities are designed to keep youth positively engaged each afternoon," said Heather Schantz-Doland, Vicenza YS director.

"The schedule is created to build consistency and reliability for youth at the center. On any given day, youth enter the center and the first thing they ask is "What are we doing today in Fine Arts Club?" if it is Tuesday and "What do we get to eat today?" if it is Thursday."

According to her, the average participation for the daily clubs goes from eight to 12 children.

"I love coming here to the Youth Services center, it is a lot of fun", said 13-year-old Jakena Caldwell.

"I come here almost every day of the week, and when I finish my homework, I do enjoy doing art work," she said.

The daily activities start on Monday with the Fitness Club, which offers several games including kickball, ping pong and dodge ball.

On Tuesday - with the Fine Arts Club - the participants may explore their artistic abilities through book making, cartooning, and scrapbooking.

Science Club follows on Wednesdays to challenge scientific interests and thinking skills of the youngsters.

Children may also test their cooking skills every Thursday with the Cooking Club, and girls, ages eight to 17, can join the SMARTS Club on Friday.

"The SMARTS club is designed to educate girls about healthy attitudes and lifestyles. Permission forms must be returned in order to participate and are available at the center," explained Schantz-Doland.

"I like to come to the YS and hang out with my friends," said Nicole Cruz, 13. "I also like joining cooking clubs and doing other activities. The YS staff also helps me with my homework," she continued.

"All youth in grades six through eight are invited to participate as

long as they are registered with CYS and then they...just show up!" encouraged Schantz-Doland.

On Oct. 30, Youth Services has scheduled a field trip to Gardaland for students in grades seven to 12.

If interested, youth need to sign up by Oct. 27 at CYS Central Registration office located at Davis Family Readiness Center.

The cost of the trip is \$35.

For information and registration about this field trip call 634-7219.

For information about YS activities contact 634-7741 or 0444-71 7741 from off post.



Top: Nicole Cruz, 13, shows her art work to Jakena Caldwell, 13, at the Villaggio Middle School YS Center. Both enjoy doing art work after completing their homework. Left: Youth enjoy games at YS.



Above: Vicenza YS director Heather Schantz-Doland, second from left, supervises Courtney Anderson, 12, left, and 11-year-old Marissa Manzanale and Shayne Meyer, right, during the Science Club that took place at the center Oct. 4. Science Club is offered every Wednesday at 3:30 p.m.

## Cooking



Above: Megan Newbell-Wright, 13, puts the cake mix into a bowl during the Cooking club offered at the Villaggio Middle School Youth Services, Oct. 12.

Eight participants prepared chocolate cherry bars with the help of Becky Burnett, Child and Youth Program Assistant, who works at the center. During several weeks, she taught recipes including gnocchi, ugly duckling cake and pineapple upside down cake. The recipe for Thursday will be 'Pumpkin Seeds'. "I like seeing how proud the children are when they get to eat the food that they prepared," said Burnett after one of the clubs.



Left: Shantevia Lane, 13, left, and Courtney Anderson, 12, beat some eggs to add to the rest of the ingredients for Chocolate Cherry Bars during the Oct. 12 Cooking Club.



Above: Becky Burnett, Vicenza YS Child and Youth Program Assistant, looks over 13-year-old participants Nicole Cruz, left, Jakena Caldwell, and Megan Newbell-Wright, right, while they pour the mixed ingredients into the pan.

"While I am in the cooking club, I like to mix things," said Nicole Cruz, one of the club participants. "I think that is the best part...besides eating at the end!"

**Fitness Club:** Every Monday

**Fine Arts Club:** Every Tuesday

Explore your artistic abilities through book making, cartooning and scrapbooking.

**Science Club:** Every Wednesday

This club is designed to spark your scientific interest by challenging your thinking skills.

**Cooking Club:** Every Thursday

Members prepare healthy food items using accredited material from 4-H, for consumption at the meeting. Food is provided at no cost to members; however, members must participate in preparing food in order to consume it.

**SMARTS Club:** Every Friday

This club is designed to educate girls - age eight to 17 - about healthy attitudes and lifestyles.

## Amazing Race comes to post

**Project T.R.U.S.T.**  
Press Release

Vicenza High School's Project T.R.U.S.T.

(Teens Reaching Understanding and Supporting Teens) invites the community to participate in their version of the Amazing Race.

The event is set for Oct. 28 at 10 a.m. and will start in front of the high school.

Teams of four must have at least one adult and participants must be at least 10 years old.

Deadline to sign up is Oct. 26. For details, call 335-215-8200, or stop by the ASAP office, located at 169, next to the U.S. Army Health Clinic-Vicenza.

## Sports Shorts

**By Ricky Jackson**  
Sports and Fitness Center



The USAG Vicenza Sports and Fitness office, located at the fitness center encourages the community to get out and get involved in local sports, and to help, the following is offered:

As a reminder, the USAG Vicenza Basketball Prep training dates have changed from Oct. 27-29, to Nov. 17-19.

A great way to stay in shape is to come out for pick-up basketball games held Monday-Friday, from 11:30 a.m. -1:30 p.m. in the fitness center gym.

The USAG Vicenza community-level Body Building Team has ongoing try-outs and practices, contact the Sports Office at 634-7009 if interested.

The USAG Vicenza community-level Soccer Team try-outs and practices is looking for participants. We are scheduled to participate in the local Italian Soccer League, contact the Sports Office if interested.

The USAG Vicenza community-level Power Lifting Team has ongoing try-outs and practices. We're preparing for the IMA-Europe tournament, set for Nov. 4 in Heidelberg, Germany. We're also competing in the U.S. Forces Europe Championship, set for Feb. 11 in Landstuhl, Germany. Contact the Sports Office if interested.

The USAG Vicenza community-level Flag Football Team also has ongoing try-outs and practices. We're going to Bamberg, Germany Nov. 17-18 for the Army Europe Championship game. Contact the Sports Office if interested.

The USAG Vicenza Unit/Recreational Soccer Championship was held Oct. 6-8. Results of the semi-finals were:

Bobcats (2) vs. Attack (4)  
Centurions (2) vs. 1-503 (8)  
1-503 (0) vs. Attack (3) Penalty Kicks



**Congratulations to team Attack! on their winning the U.S. Army Garrison Vicenza Unit/Recreational Soccer Championships held Oct. 6-8. The Attack! won the championship with a score of 4-0 against 1-503d. (Photo courtesy of the fitness center)**

# Teacher of the Year comes from Camp Darby

**Story and photos**  
**by Staff Sgt. Joyce Costello**  
AFN Livorno

Teachers are the shapers of tomorrow's generation of leaders. An important, but sometimes under appreciated role, but one Camp Darby teacher is receiving international recognition.

Proving that great things can come from small places, Vicki O'Brien was honored as the Department of Defense Dependents Schools 2007 Teacher of the Year, for the Mediterranean District.

O'Brien teaches physical education, health, and adventure education at Livorno Unit school. O'Brien has been with DoDDS schools for 17 years. Before coming to Livorno, she taught in Panama.

"It's been quite an honor to be teacher of the year, and I'm proud to represent the Mediterranean district," she said. "But what's more important, is I am so excited that the field of health and fitness is being recognized, because I think it is important to the total education of a child."

According to 8th grader Damien Ranger, it's her dedication to the youth, which makes her so popular with her students.

"She's really great, and she's into it and stuff," he said. "Plus, she helps a lot of other people and I like her."

Originally from Jasper, Indiana, she earned her Bachelors degree from the University of Oklahoma in Education Psychology.

O'Brien says she wanted to help teach kids early about physical fitness because, "by turning children onto physical activity at an early age, they stand a better chance to lead a healthier, happier, improved quality of life."



**Vickie O'Brien (center), who was recently honored as the Department of Defense Dependents Schools 2007 Teacher of the year for the Mediterranean district, works with her students during a physical education class in Livorno Unit school, Camp Darby.**

"She exemplifies what you would want to see in each and every teacher," said Carol Paulson, Livorno Unit school vice principal, about the reasons behind O'Brien's Teacher of the Year nomination. "She genuinely cares about children, is knowledgeable in her field, is a team player and wants community and parents involved as much as possible because we know it makes it better for the youth. She not only teaches to the standards, but also believes in the standards."

O'Brien is among the five DoD educators around the world to be considered for selection as the

representative of the Department of Defense Education Activity at the national level of the program. She will travel to Washington, D.C., for the final round of selection and to meet senior educational and political leaders. Winners are announced in April.

The National Teacher of the Year Program began in 1952 and continues as the oldest, most prestigious national honors program that focuses public attention on excellence in teaching. DoDDS-Europe participates in the National Teacher of the Year program through an invitation extended to DoDEA by the Council of Chief State School Officers.

## Cougars' season ends with shut-out



**Vicenza High School Cougars' #5 tries to score but is brought down by a Vilseck player during the Cougars final game of the season Oct. 14 in Vicenza. The Cougars gave it their all, but failed to score, allowing Vilseck to shut them out with a final score of 36-0. Vicenza ended their first season as a Division II team without a single victory. (Photos by Laura Kreider, Outlook staff)**



**Cougars' #22 gives the Vilseck players a run for the money during the Oct. 14 home game. Unfortunately, the Cougars couldn't get past the Vilseck defense.**





# It's Chestnut Time

Story and photos by Laura Kreider  
Outlook Staff

Right: Chestnuts roast on a huge brazier during the past year's chestnut festival held in the small town of Combai. Below: One of the artisans shows his work at the *Fantastica Via*, one of the streets where old fashioned handcrafts were on display during a past edition in Combai.



**C**astagne, chestnuts, were roasted on an open fire long before Nat King Cole sang his famous lyrics. They are harvested starting at the beginning of October throughout Italy and will be used for cooking during the fall season. When roasted on the huge grills in the squares of the many cities that celebrate them, they fill the air with their unique woody autumn-day smell.

Celebrations and chestnut markets have started in many villages and will continue until the first week of November, which is related to an Italian holiday, the Feast of All Saints. During these festivals booths serve roasted chestnuts, chestnut ice cream, chestnut marmalade and other products made from chestnuts.

Chestnuts, according to tradition, go well with the new red local wine, the *Novello*, which is released in the second week of November. In addition to being roasted, chestnuts, which are rich with starch and sugar, are also used as the main ingredient in many typical recipes. After they are ground, it is possible to obtain a nutritious flour that has been used for centuries. One of the most traditional recipes is the *Castagnaccio* where raisins and pine nuts are added to the chestnut flour with enough water to

create a smooth mixture and then baked for about 30 minutes. Other local recipes include a ricotta cake with chestnuts and chestnut bread. Chestnuts are also used for the *primi*, such as the chestnut filled ravioli, soup with rice and chestnuts, or *tagliolini ai marroni*, a special type of long flat pasta.

The 62nd *Festa dei Marroni* (another Italian name for chestnuts) is taking place this weekend in the town of Combai, about 40 km. from Treviso. This town, with a present-day population of about 500 people, celebrates the chestnut, which is produced in its surrounding hills.

In addition to visiting the tent where it is possible to taste the chestnuts, throughout all the streets of the town there is also the

chance to see handcrafts on display and artisans while they create their traditional pieces on the spot. For information about the event check [www.combai.it](http://www.combai.it). (only in Italian)

Other towns in the Trento, Treviso, Vicenza and Verona areas also hold chestnut festivals and markets. Among some events, *Roncegno*, about 30 km. East of Trento, holds the 27th *Festa della Castagna*, Oct. 28-29 with food booths and local products in the downtown streets; *Follina*, a town near Treviso, houses some food booths with chestnuts and *Vino novello* on Sunday, *Monte di Malo*, 23 km. from Vicenza, will hold a *Festa delle Castagne* Oct. 28-Nov. 1, and *San Mauro di Saline*, about 30 km. north east of Verona, schedules its 36th *Sagra dei Marroni*- chestnuts in the square - on the weekend. On Nov. 12, *San Giovanni Lupatoto* - another town near Verona, about 10 km. southeast - holds the traditional fest called *Castagnata di San Martino*.



Baskets with *marroni*, chestnuts, are on display during the autumn events

Right: One of the participants controls and turns the chestnuts during the Sunday event. Below: Visitors fill the streets of Combai during the annual event. Bottom right: A violin player performs near the booths.

